

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY
(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference C40216	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/JP2004/010488	International filing date (day/month/year) 23.07.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 23.07.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC G06F12/00 , 13/00, H04N7/173		
Applicant I-O DATA DEVICE, INC.		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.
2. This REPORT consists of a total of 6 sheets, including this cover sheet.
3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

- a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of _____ sheets, as follows:
- ☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).
- ☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. 1 and the Supplemental Box.
- b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) _____

_____, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

- ☒ Box No. I Basis of the report
- ☐ Box No. II Priority
- ☐ Box No. III Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
- ☐ Box No. IV Lack of unity of invention
- ☒ Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
- ☐ Box No. VI Certain documents cited
- ☐ Box No. VII Certain defects in the international application
- ☒ Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/JP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010488

Box No. I Basis of the report

1. With regard to the language, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.
- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language _____ which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
- ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
- ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)
2. With regard to the elements of the international application, this report is based on (*replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report*):
- ☒ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☐ the description:
- pages _____ as originally filed/furnished
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- pages* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the claims:
- nos. _____ as originally filed/furnished
- nos.* _____ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- nos.* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ the drawings:
- sheets _____ as originally filed/furnished
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- sheets* _____ received by this Authority on _____
- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.
3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____
4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).
- ☐ the description, pages _____
- ☐ the claims, nos. _____
- ☐ the drawings, sheets/figs _____
- ☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): _____
- ☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): _____

* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010488

Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement		
1. Statement			
Novelty (N)	Claims	19-21	YES
	Claims	1-18	NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims		YES
	Claims	1-21	NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-21	YES
	Claims		NO
2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)			
Document 1: JP 9-81431 A (Fuji Facom Seigyo KK), 28 March 1997; entire text and all drawings (Family: none)			
Document 2: JP 5-53896 A (Fuji-Xerox Co., Ltd.), 5 March 1993; entire text and all drawings (Family: none)			
Document 3: JP 2001-154995 A (Toshiba Corp.), 8 June 2001; entire text and all drawings (Family: none)			
Document 4: JP 3-111948 A (NEC Corp.), 13 May 1991; entire text and all drawings (Family: none)			
Claims 1-14			
As disclosed in documents 1 and 2, cited in the international search report, techniques whereby directory lists recording information on files held on the master and slave devices connected to a network are integrated in the master, and an integrated directory list is distributed from the master to the slaves, are known art. Searching integrated directory lists with designated search conditions, and displaying the same, are also known art, as disclosed in documents 1 and 2.			
Therefore, the inventions set forth in claims 1-14			

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010488

Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

are not novel and do not involve an inventive step.

Claims 15-16

As disclosed in documents 1 and 2, cited in the international search report, techniques whereby directory lists recording information on files held on the master and slave devices connected to a network are integrated in the master, and an integrated directory list is distributed from the master to the slaves, are known art. Searching integrated directory lists with designated search conditions, and displaying the same, are also known art, as disclosed in documents 1 and 2.

Therefore, the inventions set forth in claims 15-16 are not novel and do not involve an inventive step.

Claims 17-18

In addition to the reasons given for claims 15-16, document 1, cited in the international search report, also discloses replacing the master when the master is disconnected.

Therefore, the inventions set forth in claims 17-18 are not novel and do not involve an inventive step.

Claim 19

In addition to the reasons given for claims 15-16, when the same file is present on a plurality of information devices in a networked system it is conventional practice to transfer the file from an information device which has a faster transfer speed.

Therefore, the invention set forth in claim 19 does not involve an inventive step.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010488

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability;
citations and explanations supporting such statement

Claims 20-21

In addition to the reasons given for claims 15-16, as disclosed in documents 3 and 4, cited in the international search report, reallocating files to a faster information device so as to optimise file placement in a networked system is known art.

Therefore, the inventions set forth in claims 20-21 do not involve an inventive step.

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/JP2004/010488

Box No. VIII Certain observations on the international application

The following observations on the clarity of the claims, description, and drawings or on the question whether the claims are fully supported by the description, are made:

Claim 9 begins: "A multimedia information device file management program described in claim 7"; however, this is inconsistent with the invention set forth in claim 7, which is "A multimedia information device", and is unclear.

(It is suggested that claim 9 should probably begin "A multimedia information device file management program described in claim 8".)